

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 245

By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION designating April 2011 as “Minority Health Awareness Month” in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is the sense of this General Assembly that attention needs to be brought to the severe health disparities faced by minority populations, including American Indian, Alaskan Natives, Asians, African-Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders; and

WHEREAS, many of these populations experience a disproportionate lack of access to healthcare, exposure to environmental hazards, mortality, morbidity, behavioral risk factors, disability status, and unique social determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, the expected increase in these populations in the near future will impact the health systems of this State and this nation, making their collective health even more critical; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services has identified six areas in which racial and ethnic minorities experience the most disparate access and health outcomes: infant mortality, cancer screening and management, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS infection, and immunizations; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, African-American, American Indian, and Puerto Rican infants have higher death rates than Caucasian infants; and

WHEREAS, African-American women are more than twice as likely to die of cervical cancer than Caucasian women and are more likely to die of breast cancer than women of any other racial or ethnic group; and

WHEREAS, the rate of death from coronary heart disease was twenty percent (20%) higher among African-American adults than among Caucasian adults older than the age of forty-four, and the death rate from stroke was forty-eight percent (48%) higher in 2006; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, African-American adults were 6 times more likely to have medically diagnosed diabetes than non-Hispanic Caucasians, Hispanics were 1.5 times more likely, Asians were 1.2 times more likely; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans and Hispanics represented only twenty-seven percent (27%) of the United States population in 2008, but accounted for an estimated sixty-eight percent (68%) of adult AIDS diagnoses and seventy-one percent (71%) of estimate pediatric AIDS diagnoses in that year; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Hispanics and African-Americans at the ages of sixty-five and above were less likely than non-Hispanic Caucasians to report having received influenza and pneumococcal vaccines; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that April 2011 is hereby designated as "Minority Health Awareness Month" in the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.